



Family News

News and Information for Families of individuals served at Muscatatuck SDC and Madison State Hospital during the transition to community-based services.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next meeting of the
**Southeast Regional Project
Team** will be:

February 1, 2002

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Stone City Mall

Wildflower Room

3300 W. 16th St., Bedford, IN

HANDY NUMBERS AND WEB SITES:

MSDC/MSH Info Hotline:

1-800-903-9822

www.IN.gov/fssa/transition

Maintained by FSSA to answer
your questions.

DD Waiver Ombudsman:

1-800-622-4484

Available to respond to your
comments and questions.

The Arc of Indiana:

1-800-382-9100

www.arcind.org

www.thearclink.org

A statewide group that advocates
on behalf of people with mental
retardation and related
disabilities and their families.

Area Agency on Aging:

1-800-986-3505

www.iaaa.org

AAAs provide case
management, transportation,
and other services to older adults
and people with disabilities. Call
to find the agency closest to you.

Southern Indiana Center for Independent Living (SICIL):

1-800-845-6914

Part of Indiana's Independent
Living Service system, SICIL
provides people with disabilities
with information and referral,
advocacy and other services.

Highlight on Community

*This is the first in an occasional series
of articles that will visit former Mus-
catatuck residents as they transition into
the community. This month Charlie Jones,
of Columbus.*

Charlie Jones is a busy man.
His favorite activity is practicing on
his 5-octave Yamaha keyboard. He
enjoys spending time with the many
friends he has made at work and
church. When he's not frequenting
the mall you'll find Charlie grilling
out on the patio of his beautiful
home located in a pleasant neigh-
borhood.

While this may sound like a typi-
cal, American lifestyle - for Charlie,
it isn't. Charlie, a 47 year old man
with Down's Syndrome, spent 37
years living at Muscatatuck State
Developmental Center. He has been
profoundly retarded since birth and
is unable to see. He can communi-
cate only with facial expressions and
a few spoken words. Charlie's life
changed dramatically in 1999 when
he left Muscatatuck and moved
to his current home in Columbus,
Indiana. He was one of the first
people from Muscatatuck to transi-
tion into a Supported Living home
in the community.

As a participant in the Medicaid
Waiver program, Charlie now lives
in a three-bedroom house with two
friends. Personal Assistants work in
his home 24 hours a day to help
all three housemates experience an
enhanced quality of life while learn-
ing skills that allow them to become
a more integral part of their com-
munity.



Charlie Jones at home.

Charlie's life in the community
includes working at Arby's three
mornings a week, where he has
been employed for over a year. He
enjoys the repetition of the work -
washing potatoes and putting toys
in the kid's meals. Recently, Charlie
received the Employee Recognition
award from Arby's as part of
Disability Awareness Day. Charlie's
community life also involves partici-
pating in a program to learn more
about his new city and the oppor-
tunities available to him including
learning basic sign language to
improve his ability to communicate
with friends and staff.

Loretta Nuby is a staff person
who has assisted Charlie since he
first moved into the community.
She watched him blossom as he
has become comfortable in his
new home and experienced new
activities. Loretta has seen Charlie
develop self-confidence and
become more outgoing - new traits
she attributes to his job. Other
activities Loretta assists Charlie with
include taking him to church where
he loves the music and to a daycare

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Family Resource Center

Each month this space will highlight different disability and transition specific print and video resources available to borrow free-of-charge from the Center for Disability Information and Referral (CeDIR), part of Indiana University's Indiana Institute on Disability and Community.

The resources listed here can be obtained by calling CeDIR toll-free at 1-800-437-7924. Borrowers can keep the materials up to four weeks and the material will be mailed directly to your home. The only expense to the borrower is the cost of returning the material via US mail.

This month's featured selections:

- *When spider webs unite: Challenging articles & essays on community, diversity and inclusion* by S. Asante (1997).
- *The community integration of persons labeled as dually diagnosed: Issues and models* by Bookser, Woodward, and Pederson (1991).
- *Developmental disabilities services in Indiana: Assessing progress through the year 2000* by Braddock and Hemp (2000).

For more information in CeDir, visit their web site at: www.iidc.indiana.edu/~cedir

FSSA awarded \$200,000 federal grant to help people with disabilities

18 counties can apply for grants as part of this pilot program

A new \$200,000 federal grant will help people with disabilities and their families get needed information and access to resources available in their communities, Family and Social Services Administration Secretary John Hamilton announced.

The grant will fund a family support pilot program in 18 southeastern Indiana counties. More than \$100,000 of this grant will be awarded to counties on a competitive basis. The goal is to help existing networks better serve families and to develop new networks that can serve as a blueprint for a statewide system.

"The support network funded by this grant will help families with loved ones transitioning from an institution to community setting by allowing them to find resources that suit their needs quickly and easily," said Hamilton.

The grant will also be used to increase access to available community resources, identify the needs of cultural minorities and develop training on available local resources. It will also help fund a telephone-based information and referral system now under development. By dialing 2-1-1, Hoosiers will be able to access comprehensive information on human services organizations. The system, once in place, will be available statewide.

The grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

Highlight on Community

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center where he likes to sit and visit with the children.

Rick Bolin first met Charlie a year ago when he began working at Charlie's house. Rick drives Charlie to and from work and other outings in the community. He says that Charlie never met a stranger he did not like and is a favorite of his six-year-old granddaughter who sometimes visits Charlie and his housemates.

While no one knows when Charlie first developed his love of music, everyone knows what his favorite song is - the theme to the TV show "Cops." Even when he is not feeling well, Charlie pretends to be directing the band and claps when the song is over. Charlie has continued to explore the world of music by using the money he earned at Arby's to buy his keyboard.

What's next for Charlie? He's already doing more than some might ever have thought was possible. Who knows what he might learn next?

INTERNET ACCESS RESOURCE CENTER

Many articles in this newsletter direct readers to the Internet sites of various organizations. We hope the sites listed will be helpful to readers as they gather information about the transition and the resources available in the community. Starting this month and continuing in future editions, we will list locations in southeastern Indiana where the Internet can be accessed for free.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Madison - Jefferson County Library

420 W. Main street
Madison, Indiana
812-265-2744

The Library offers free Internet access on 8 computers. Internet use is limited to 2 hours a day, half and hour at a time during busy periods.

JENNINGS COUNTY

Jennings County Library

2375 N. State Highway 3
North Vernon, Indiana
812-346-2091

The library offers free Internet access on 10 computers. There is a half an hour time limit if others are waiting.

SWITZERLAND COUNTY

Switzerland County Public Library

205 Ferry Street
Vevay, IN
812-423-3363

The library offers free Internet access on 5 computers.

RIPLEY COUNTY

Batesville Memorial Public Library

131 North Walnut Street
Batesville, IN
812-934-4706

The library offers free Internet access on 5 computers.

Osgood Public Library

136 West Ripley Street
Osgood, Indiana
812 - 689 - 4011

The library offers free Internet access on 8 computers.



DD Waiver Ombudsman Review

A review of the responsibilities and contact information of the DD Waiver Ombudsman

The statewide DD Waiver Ombudsman Program applies to individuals who have a developmental disability and who receive services under a Medicaid Waiver under the federal home and community based services program. According to the law, the ombudsman shall receive, investigate, and attempt to resolve complaints and concerns that are made by or on behalf of an individual who is developmentally disabled and who receives services under a Medicaid Waiver.

At the conclusion of an investigation of a complaint, the ombudsman will report the findings of the investigation to the complainant. If an investigation is not

done the complainant will be notified of the decision not to investigate and the reasons for the decision.

Brian Reynolds has been appointed as the Indiana's first full-time DD Ombudsman. Brian works in the Bureau of Aging and In-Home Services (BAIHS) within the Family and Social Services Administration. If you have any complaints or concerns or if you would like more information, please contact him at **(317) 234-1181** or **1 (800) 622-4484**. Please share these phone numbers with the Individuals with Developmental Disabilities who are served under the Waiver Program or with others who may have complaints or concerns regarding this population.

Madison State Hospital Selected as Site for Regional Service Center

Secretary Hamilton Makes the Announcement on November 28, 2001

After much consideration, the Family and Social Services Administration has decided to locate the Regional Service Center in Madison. One regional administrator will oversee all state-operated services in the region. Most of the state-operated beds will be used to treat, stabilize and integrate individuals into the community, not serve as long-term residences.

The decision to locate the facility in Madison was made only after a thorough review of the all the relevant issues. Three of the most important issues are explained below.

Patient Care Issues

Locating all services in one location near a metropolitan market will increase FSSA's ability to develop a center of excellence with cutting-edge therapeutic models. FSSA will ensure that the units/facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities have therapeutic operations distinct from the mental illness operations (for example, the direct care staff will not alternate between assisting individuals with DD and MI). Providing these services on the Madison campus will enable FSSA to coordinate the use of many professionals with both groups. While direct caregivers would not alternate between the two groups served, other professionals - such as physicians, dentists and therapists - would. While FSSA does not know for certain what the need for state operated facilities will be 10-20 years from now, it does know that the needs are always changing and will be different from the current

needs. Operating a state facility on one campus will give FSSA greater flexibility to be responsive to the future's changing needs.

Fiscal Issues

Estimates indicate operating facilities in two separate counties - rather than integrated at one location - would cost approximately \$4-5 million more in annual operating expenses. This includes approximately \$2 million in operations and approximately \$2.4 million annually in federal "disproportionate share" funding that FSSA would not receive if all residents are not served on a hospital campus for individuals who are mentally ill. Construction and capital costs would be higher for two new facilities. Renovating existing Muscatatuck buildings would cost at least \$8-12 million. Additionally, there would be significant on-going maintenance costs, approximately \$1 million each biennium.

Community Issues

The changes ahead are significant and will impact the local community. FSSA is committed to working with employees to help them during the transition. Existing Muscatatuck employees will receive assistance with training and identifying new job opportunities. Additionally, they will be encouraged to apply for positions at Madison or with other agencies providing community-based services to consumers leaving state-operated facilities.

Providing the state-operated services in Madison will ensure quality patient care and use tax dollars responsibly. Individuals with mental illness and developmental disabilities will gain the most as FSSA develops a center of excellence where they can find help and integrate back into their homes and communities.

Contact Us!

FSSA maintains a web site, a toll-free phone number, and this newsletter to keep MSDC and MSH families fully informed.

Anyone who would like to receive this newsletter can call the number listed, leave their address, and be added to our mailing list.

The web site features questions discussed at family and employee meetings, the final report from the Governor's Council on State Operated Care Facilities, updates on the *Olmstead* process, articles, and more.

You can visit the web site at:
www.IN.gov/fssa/transition

If you have questions, comments or concerns, or want to request copies of items on the web site, write to:

Secretary, FSSA
402 W. Washington St.,
Room W461
Indianapolis, IN 46207-7088
Attn: MSDC/MSH

or email:
OfficeOfTheSecretary@fssa.state.in.us

or call toll-free, 24 hours a day:
1-800-903-9822

You can also call this number if you have concerns about the services that your loved one receives after leaving MSDC or MSH.

Family and Employee News Now Available On-Line

Employee News and *Family News* will now be posted on-line each month. FSSA's Muscatatuck/Madison Transition Process web site has added the newsletters as a feature. The web page can be viewed at:

www.IN.gov/fssa/transition